

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH, 1908.

Twenty-first Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Condition of the East Grinstead Urban District for the Year ending 31st December, 1908.

Area : 6355 Acres.

Population : Census (of 1901) 6,094.

	1906.	1907.	1908.
Population estimated to middle of year	6,650	6,800	7,100
Birth Rate per 1,000	19·2	20·05	20·01
General Death Rate per 1,000	9·6	9·4	9·4
Zymotic Death Rate per 1,000	·70	·73	·42
Death Rate from Phthisis	1·2	1·4	·56
Death Rate from Respiratory Diseases	1·3	1·6	2·3
Deaths under one year to 1,000 Births	110·2	92·8	48·7
Deaths over 65, per-centage of total Deaths	21·2	31·9	12·04

VITAL STATISTICS.

In 1908 the deaths of 83 persons at all ages and from all causes were recorded in the district against 85 in 1907 and 80 in 1906. The 83 deaths were at the rate of 11·6 per 1,000 of the total population. Of this number 7 were children under one year of age and were in the proportion of 4·8 per cent of those born; 10, or 12·04 per cent were of persons 65 years of age and upwards. The deaths of 7 persons 80 years of age and upwards were recorded, the oldest being 90 years old; 7 children died under the age of one year, in the proportion of 48·7 per 1,000 registered births. Of the 83 recorded deaths, 15 occurred in the Workhouse and 4 in the Cottage Hospital. Excluding these 19 deaths, the death rate was 9·01. Of the 83 deaths, 16 were of persons not residing in the district, but brought into it from outside districts 14 of them dying in the Workhouse, one in the Cottage Hospital, and one in the Sanatorium.

CORRECTED DEATH RATE.

Excluding the deaths of the 16 persons who were admitted to Public Institutions in the town from outside districts, the correct death rate in the Urban District is 9·4 per 1,000 persons living. This low rate of mortality corresponds exactly with that of last year.

BIRTHS.

The births numbered 143, an increase of 3 over those of the previous year, 77 of these children were males and 66 females, equal to a birth rate of 20·01 per 1,000 of the population.

DEATHS FROM ZYMOTIC DISEASE.

There were three deaths from the ordinary Zymotic Diseases, viz :—

Influenza	2
Measles	1

in the ratio of ·42 of the living.

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Twenty-six cases were reported to me under the Notification of Infectious Diseases Act, as follows :—

Diphtheria	20
Scarlet Fever	3
Erysipelas	2
Enteric Fever	1

With the exception of the two cases of Erysipelas and one case of Scarlet Fever treated at home, all the the above were removed to the Sanatorium.

SCARLET FEVER.

Of the three cases of Scarlet Fever, one was a nurse at the Sanatorium, she contracted the disease while nursing in the fever ward, another of the cases was that of a patient in the Cottage Hospital who was admitted for another complaint and soon after developed Scarlet Fever.

DIPHTHERIA.

During the year there were 20 cases of Diphtheria in the district, five of them were in one house in Grosvenor Road and appeared to have been infected by personal contact with another child suffering from the disease. All the cases were mild in character, and in some it was impossible to make a diagnosis until a bacteriological examination had been made. In addition to the above twenty cases, six were notified from one house as being Diphtheria and were removed to the Sanatorium; however upon investigation, supported by negative bacteriological examination, it was decided that these were cases of Tonsillitis and the Notifications were cancelled.

ENTERIC.

The solitary case of Enteric Fever in Durkins Road was removed to the Sanatorium. I was unable to find any likely source of infection; if the disease was contracted at home it is curious that no other cases arose.

TUBERCLE.

There were four deaths from Pulmonary Tubercle and one from "Tuberculosis Enteritis."

The Local Government Board have issued an order in pursuance of Section 130 of the Public Health Act, 1875, as amended and extended by the Public Health Acts, 1891 and 1896, to provide for the notification to Medical Officers of Health, of cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis occurring among the inmates of Poor Law Institutions, or amongst persons under the care of District Medical Officers, and for the taking of certain measures in such cases. The date of the Order is Dec. 18th, 1908, and came into force on Jan. 1st, 1909. This is a distinct advance in Sanitary science and will probably lead eventually to the notification of all cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis. I am getting cards printed for distribution to such poor patients, in which full instructions will be given as regards dis-infection and precautions to be taken to avoid infection.

CANCER.

There were seven deaths from Cancer during the year, the average age of these patients at the time of death was 61 years.

A vast amount of research work has been carried out during the last three or four years in the endeavour to discover the cause, or origin of cancer. Although there is reason to hope that the nature of this scourge will be eventually discovered, nothing has so far been found out to throw light on the subject, nor have the efforts to discover new and effectual methods of treatment been any more successful. Up to the present time the best chance of cure appears to lie in early operation.

INQUESTS.

Five inquests were held in the district; in two instances a verdict of suicide whilst temporarily insane was returned, in the other three instances death was due to natural causes.

HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES.

No new cottages were built by the Council, but those previously erected have been constantly occupied. There is now a demand for cottages by the labouring class who are unable to pay more than four or five shillings a week.

SCHOOL INSPECTION.

During the year the medical inspection of children attending elementary schools has been carried out under the Education (Administration Provisions) Act of 1907. The work of inspection throughout the County of Sussex is performed by medical inspectors appointed by the County Council.

DAIRIES.

The dairies and cowsheds have been regularly inspected. Samples of milk have been taken and submitted to the County Analyst for examination.

DRAINAGE.

The agreement between the Council and the owner of Imberhorne having expired, the Council have decided to pump the sewage formerly dealt with on the farm at Imberhorne, into the sewer in Windmill Lane, from thence it will flow by gravitation to the Sewage Farm. To carry out this plan it will be necessary to erect a new Engine House and more powerful pumping plant, plans for these new works have been submitted to the Local Government Board and approved by them, the cost is estimated at £1,700. When this scheme is completed the whole of the sewage of the district will be delivered at the Sewage Farm. This will necessitate the addition of another percolating filter, making five in all, these, with the two open septic Tanks should easily deal with the whole of the sewage.

Samples of the sewage effluent are frequently taken and during the past year have been uniformly satisfactory.

During the year 350 yards of new sewer have been laid in Windmill Lane, Dormans Park Road, and Dunnings Road. Owing to complaints made of the smell from the ventilating shaft from the sewer in Old Road, the Local Government Board held an Inquiry last July on this matter, and on the subject of Intercepting Traps.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

The Factories and Workshops have been regularly inspected and have generally been found in good order, in no instance has it been found necessary to serve a notice on the owner.

ROADS.

The extended use of "tar washing" on the main roads proved highly satisfactory, from a public health point of view by lessening the dust; economically by the preservation of the road surface from destruction by traffic, and the smaller amount of street watering necessary.

WATER.

The work of duplicating the pumps, enlarging the Engine house and installing filters at Hackenden Water Works was completed last March, since then the town has enjoyed a constant supply of water. With the view of further improving the water supply and giving better pressure in the Mains at the higher points in the town, the Gas & Water Co. are hoping shortly to lay a new 6 in. main from Hackenden direct to the top of the town.

The town water has been analysed every quarter by Sir Thos. Stevenson, and since his death by his successors, Mr. Hinks and Dr. Eyre. The first two analyses of the year were not quite satisfactory from a bacteriological point of view, although no pathogenic germs were discovered. This result was due to in-experience in working the filters. The last two analyses gave excellent results.

The weather of 1908 was of a fairly average type, the late autumn being exceptionally fine and warm. The total rainfall was 30.69 inches, and a measureable quantity of rain fell on 162 days.

PERCY E. WALLIS,

Medical Officer of Health.

OLD STONE HOUSE,

EAST GRINSTEAD,

March 25th, 1909.

VITAL STATISTICS OF EAST GRINSTEAD URBAN DISTRICT DURING 1908 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each year	Births.		TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.				TOTAL DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITU- TIONS IN THE DISTRICT	Deaths of Non- Residents registered in Public Institu- tions in the District.	Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institu- tions beyond the District.	NETT DEATHS AT ALL AGES BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.			
		Number.	Rate.*	Under 1 Year of age		At all Ages.					Number.	Rate.*	Number.	Rate.*
				Number.	Rate per 1,000 Births registered	Number.	Rate.*							
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13		
1898	5,900	136	22·05	19	139·7	99	16·7	33	24		75	12·5		
1899	6,000	172	28·6	16	93·0	97	16·1	26	14		83	13·8		
1900	6,100	130	22·7	8	57·5	65	12·2	13	20		51	9·01		
1901	6,150	144	23·4	13	81·02	63	10·2	9	5		48	9·2		
1902	6,200	151	24·3	12	74·4	85	13·7	28	22		63	10·1		
1903	6,300	159	25·2	13	81·1	84	13·3	31	20		64	9·8		
1904	6,400	151	23·5	11	69·1	85	10·6	29	17		68	10·6		
1905	6,500	131	20·1	8	61·06	79	12·1	28	21		58	8·9		
1906	6,650	127	19·2	14	118·1	80	12·03	22	11		69	9·6		
1907	6,800	140	20·05	13	92·8	85	12·5	27	13		72	9·4		
Averages for years 1898-1907.	6,300	144	22·9	12·7	86·7	82·2	12·9	24·6	16·7		65·1	10·2		
1908	7,100	143	20·01	7	48·7	83	11·6	19	16		67	9·4		

* Rates in Columns 4, 8, and 13 calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

NOTE.—The deaths to be included in Column 7 of this Table are the whole of those registered during the year as having actually occurred within the district or division. The deaths to be included in Column 12 are the number in Column 7, corrected by the subtraction of the number in Column 10 and the addition of the number in Column 11.

By the term “Non-residents” is meant persons brought into the district on account of sickness or infirmity, and dying in public institutions there; and by the term “Residents” is meant persons who have been taken out of the district on account of sickness or infirmity, and have died in public institutions elsewhere.

The “Public institutions” to be taken into account for the purposes of these Tables are those into which persons are habitually received on account of sickness or infirmity, such as hospitals, workhouses and lunatic asylums. A list of the Institutions in respect of the deaths in which corrections have been made should be given on the back of this Table.

Area of District in Acres (exclusive of area covered by water), **6,355.**

Total Population at all ages, **6,094**

Number of Inhabited houses, **1,142**

Average number of persons per house, **5·33**

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At Census
of 1901.